

Illinois boasts two Pisacano Scholars

The Illinois chapter is thrilled that two of the five 2011 Pisacano Scholarships are Illinois medical students. The scholarships, valued up to \$28,000 each, are awarded to students attending U.S. medical schools who demonstrate a strong commitment to the specialty of Family Medicine. In addition, each applicant must show demonstrable leadership skills, superior academic achievement, strong communication skills, identifiable character and integrity, and a noteworthy level of community service.

The Scholarship program provides educational programs, leadership training and funding for outstanding 4th-year medical students who have been identified as the future leaders in the field of Family Medicine.



Nathan Kittle is a 4th-year medical student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, where he is also earning his master's in bioethics and health policy. During college, he participated in and led numerous service trips to poverty stricken areas in the United States.

As a medical student, Nathan has continued his academic achievement and commitment to service. He has received a number of scholarships, including an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. Additionally, Nathan was chosen for a Dean's Development Award to complete his master's degree at Loyola. Nathan was also recently selected as one of only a few students to represent the Loyola school of medicine in a leadership development program put in place to help discover ways the health system can better serve patients, improve clinical service, and enhance medical education.

As a Loyola Global Health Fellow, Nathan recently began a fellowship in Palacios, Bolivia. This one-year fellowship is part of a four-year longitudinal Global Health Scholars program at Loyola and will focus on health care delivery in resource-poor settings.

Nathan is also a member of the Center for Service and Global Health (CSGH) Student Advisory Board. His most important activity he led as part of the CSGH was organizing Loyola's first annual "Mission in Action: Loyola Day of Service." This project introduces students to the community and gives them the opportunity to volunteer in different areas, ranging from collecting trash on a local prairie path to working with the local Fine Arts Association. In his future career as a family physician, Nathan hopes to continue working among underserved communities both locally and abroad. He specifically has a heart for working with refugee communities and hopes to work to improve their care and bring attention to their struggles by remaining involved in academic medicine and policy work.



Benjamin Preyss is a 4th-year medical student at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, where he is pursuing a joint MD/MBA degree. He worked as campus manager for Teach For America during the last two years of college and traveled to the indigenous villages of the Oaxaca Valley in Mexico as a student leader on multiple short-term medical mission trips.

Prior to medical school, Benjamin worked as a research consultant with one of the nation's leading research and consulting firms addressing the organization and financing of health care for vulnerable populations. It was through this experience that Benjamin began to understand how he could impact health services for medically vulnerable populations and stirred his desire to become a physician leader.

Benjamin has also received the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and he worked to create and implement a health and wellness curriculum for Urban Initiatives – an extracurricular program working with over 500 elementary students in some of Chicago's most underserved communities. Benjamin also recently began serving as a principal mentor to formerly homeless adolescents and young adults as part of a mentoring pilot program with Schweitzer Fellows For Life.

Benjamin is also a member of UIC's Urban Medicine (UMed) program, a unique 4-year medical school curriculum preparing physician-leaders to serve urban communities. Most recently, he was recently inducted into UIC's chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, a national organization recognizing outstanding humanistic character and performance by medical students.

While completing his MBA curriculum, Benjamin was awarded the Grand Prize at UIC's campus-wide business competition for leading a management team in the creation of a business plan to establish a new faith-based community health center in Chicago's Humboldt Park community. Benjamin envisions combining his skills as an administrative leader and a family physician to provide accessible, high quality, and comprehensive care to those communities and patients who remain most in need.